

ACCOUNTING REFORM

Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, I rise to express my support for the accounting reform bill and the underlying goals of the legislation. I wholeheartedly endorse the principles expressed in this bill to root out corruption in our accounting industry.

The need for this bill is enormous. The accounting scandals that have rocked this Nation over the past nine months have shaken Americans' faith in our free market system. We simply cannot allow this attack at the bedrock of our economic system to pass unanswered. Those who have propagated corporate greed, those who have engaged in unethical business practices, and those who have willingly and knowingly turned a blind eye must be punished.

Moreover, we need to assure all Americans that they can and should have faith in American business. The loss of confidence caused by a lack of accountability has caused nearly as much damage as the economic impact of these surfacing scandals.

The perpetrators of these scandals are certainly in the forefront of our minds as we have debated this legislation. But, in the end, this bill is not about those who have violated the trusts of their employees and shareholders. This bill is really about those employees and shareholders who have been violated, it's about average Americans who are now being penalized and disadvantaged because of the corporate greed of a privileged few. And it is about those honest accountants whose integrity and profession have been scarred by a few dishonest individuals.

I need look no further than my home State of Nebraska to see the human aspect of these fraudulent accounting practices. Before it merged with Houston Natural Gas in 1985, InterNorth, the forerunner of Enron, was based in Omaha. In the year following the merger, the newly named Enron relocated to Houston, but it still had roots in Nebraska as well as thousands of InterNorth retirees.

Those retirees and employees have seen their lives turned upside down by the accounting trickery perpetrated by those at the top. Many have seen their retirement accounts evaporate while others have lost their jobs.

Not only has their trust been violated by the actions of Enron executives, they also have to witness the apparent disinterest of the accountants who were obliged to ensure honesty and integrity in bookkeeping. With the livelihoods and savings of tens of thousands on the line, a handful of accountants failed to do their duty.

When I was governor of Nebraska, we had a period of upswing in the distribution of dangerous drugs. In response, we stiffened penalties in our omnibus crime legislation. The same principle applies here. When there is an upswing in criminal and unethical behavior, we have to get tough.

Corporate greed is a scourge on Americans and those who are participating in it should be paying the price.

This legislation will ensure they do pay a price commiserate with the pain they have inflicted upon the American people.

I'd like to thank my colleague Senator SARBANES for his tireless work on this bill. His efforts to crack down on unethical accounting practices are greatly appreciated.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill. Through this legislation, we can move away from the failures of the past, begin to restore investor confidence, help return to our strong economy and prove that a few bad seeds cannot bring down our great Nation.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2001

Mr. SMITH of Oregon. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about hate crimes legislation I introduced with Senator KENNEDY in March of last year. The Local Law Enforcement Act of 2001 would add new categories to current hate crimes legislation sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society.

I would like to describe a terrible crime that occurred August 1, 2001 in Roanoke, VA. Two men and the pastor of a predominantly gay church were attacked by three men after a Bible study and prayer meeting, police and the pastor said. The Rev. Catherine Houchins was struck in the face as she tried to call 911 on her cellular phone after the initial attack. The attackers, who came out of an alley as the victims were getting into their cars, were heard to yell obscenities related to the victims' sexual orientation.

I believe that government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act of 2001 is now a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

COMMENDING THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA NATIONAL GUARD, THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU, AND THE ENTIRE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

• Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 378, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent on July 12, 2002. This resolution commends the District of Columbia National Guard, the National Guard Bureau, and the entire Department of Defense for the assistance provided to the United States Capitol Police and the entire congressional community in response to the terrorist and anthrax attacks of September and October 2001.

I would like to thank all of those who worked tirelessly for almost five months in response to the heightened state of emergency in the Capitol complex following the terrorist and an-

thrax attacks of September and October 2001.

We owe so much to the over 140 members of the District of Columbia Army National Guard, specifically the 260th Military Police Command, the 260th Regional Training Institute, the 74th Troop Command, the Headquarters District Area Regional Command, and the 33rd Civil Support Team, who answered the call to duty to assist the Capitol Police in protecting the Capitol complex. We here in the Capitol saw firsthand the cooperation between the National Guard and the Capitol Police. This time presented a challenging assignment for all involved, and the combined efforts of these two agencies served as a model for managing such a difficult situation.

Because of these men and women, we were protected around the clock and the activities in the Capitol were secure. Members of Congress, congressional employees, and visitors were confident of their safety here, and we were able to continue to serve the American people.

The dedication of the District of Columbia National Guard came at a price. These men and women worked an extreme number of hours under difficult conditions. The time they spent in order to serve their country was time away from their loved ones, and we are grateful for the personal sacrifices they made for our nation.

During the course of the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln came to Washington as the new president. The States began to divide into the Confederacy and the Union. When he arrived, this Capitol dome which you see outside was under construction. Many people went to the President and said: Mr. President, we can't afford to wage a war and build this Capitol dome. He said: "Yes, we can, because that Capitol dome represents the unity of this country and what we will be after this war." During the Civil War, he continued the construction of that great dome we see today. And Lincoln was right.

The National Guard protected not only the people within the Capitol complex, but the complex itself and the unity, liberty, and freedom it represents. I am honored to support this resolution commending the work of the District of Columbia National Guard, the National Guard Bureau, and the entire Department of Defense, and I extend my personal gratitude for their service. •

IN MEMORY OF THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF FRANCES RILEY

• Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire. Mr. President, I rise today in remembrance of a cherished friend and former Republican State representative, Frances Riley.

Mrs. Riley's professional career as a representative from New Hampshire